

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01969 152138Z

64

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1969

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: CHILE - TRIALS OF DAWSON ISLAND PRISONERS

REF: SANTIAGO 1943

1. ELABORATING ON REFTTEL RE TRIAL OF DAWSON ISLAND PRISONERS NEAR VALPARAISO, DEBON SAID HE AS AIDE TO ADM. EBERHARDT WAS IN CHARGE OF EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR TRIALS. HE TWICE REPEATED INFORMATION THAT "PROCESO" ALREADY UNDERWAY. WORD CAN BE INTERPRETED EITHER IN SENSE TRIAL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS LEADING TO TRIAL BUT WE ASSUME LATTER TO BE CASE. BOTH LEGAL COUNSEL AND FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD BE PERMITTED ADEQUATE ACCESS TO PRISONERS, DEBON SAID AND HE INDICATED WORLD PRESS EXPECTED TO COVER TRIALS, WHICH WOULD LAST FOR "SOME TIME".

2. ALTHOUGH DE BON DID NOT WISH IDENTIFY TRIAL SITE BEYOND PROVINCE OF VALPARAISO ONE LIKELY DETENTION PLACE WOULD BE NAVAL AIR BASE OF EL BELLOTO IN OPEN COUNTRY JUST EAST OF QUILPUE, ONE OF CLOSEST-IN SUBURBS OF VINA DE MAR VALPARAISO METROPOLITAN AREA.

3. IN EXTENSIVE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE DE BON REITERATED INCREASINGLY FAMILIAR JUNTA LINE TO EFFECT THAT
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01969 152138Z

WHILE JUNTA WILLING EXTEND THESE TO MAXIMUM CONSISTENT WITH

SECURITY, SITUATION REQUIRES LIMITS TO THEIR TOLERANCE AND THEY HAVE ONLY TO LOOK AT EXAMPLE OF SPAIN, ONCE OSTRACIZED BUT NOW PROSPEROUS MEMBER WESTERN COMMERCIAL PICTURE IF NOT FULLY IN WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL WORLD. QUOTED JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERIONO WITH WHOM HE SAID HE SPENT SEPT 11 DAY OF COUP STATING THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD TO DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY EVEN IF THEY WOULD NOT ALWAYS BE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD. DE BON ADDED THAT THE MORE JUNTA DISCOVERS WHAT UNIDAD POPULAR ACTUALLY DID LONGER IT SEEMS WILL TAKE BEFORE "MESS" CAN BE CLEANED UP.

4. COMMENT: MEETING WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL BUT SUGGESTED BY GOVT PRESS SPOKESMAN WILLOUGHBY WHEN HE HEARD AMB. AND PAO WERE GOING TO VALPARAISO. DE BON IS HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND. POPPER

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